PUBLIC BUILDING AT AMERICUS, GA.

JANUARY 9, 1897.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union and ordered to be printed.

Mr. Bankhead, from the Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds, submitted the following

REPORT.

[To accompany H. R. 7.]

The Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 7) for the erection of a public building at Americus, Ga., and appropriating money therefor, have had the same under

consideration and report as follows:

Americus is the largest city in southwest Georgia, and is the logical distributing point for all that section of the State, and is growing very rapidly. Five railroads enter the city; the number of trains entering and leaving the place daily is 28. The general offices of the Georgia and Alabama Railroad, a large trunk line, are located there. The place has a very large banking capital. There are five banks in the city, all doing a good business. It has extensive manufacturing enterprises, electric railway, waterworks, gas and electric lights, free delivery of mail, and all improvements and conveniences usually found in much larger cities. The population of the place is more than 10,000 people. Within the last two years more than \$3,000,000 has been invested there. The present post-office building, which is rented by the Government at the annual rental of about \$1,200, is totally inadequate for the service. A lot on which to erect the building can now, we are reliably informed, be obtained at a reasonable sum, and in view of the rapid growth of the place, its commercial importance, and the inadequacy of the present rented quarters, we think the best interests of the Government will be subserved by the erection of a public building at Americus.

Your committee report the bill back with an amendment, striking out "fifty" and inserting "thirty-five," and, as amended, earnestly rec-

ommend its passage.